

**CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS:**

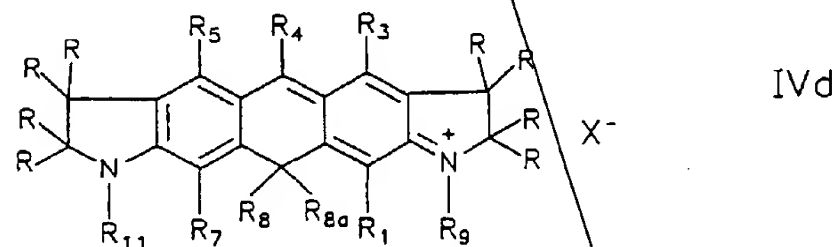
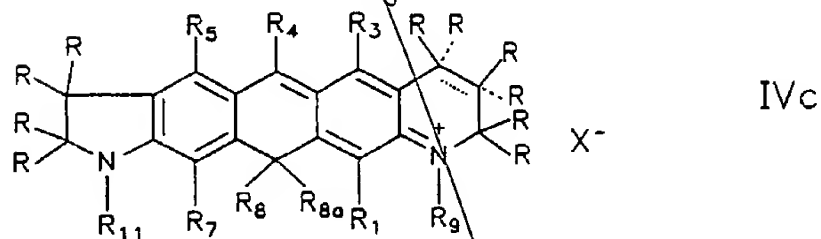
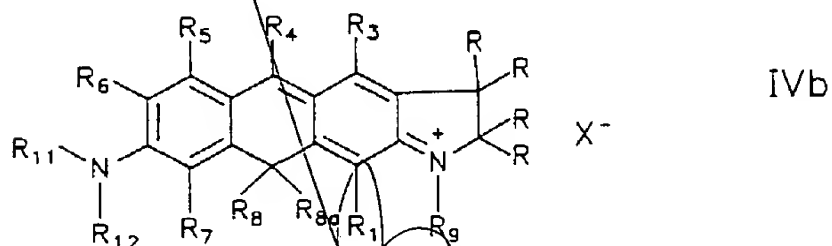
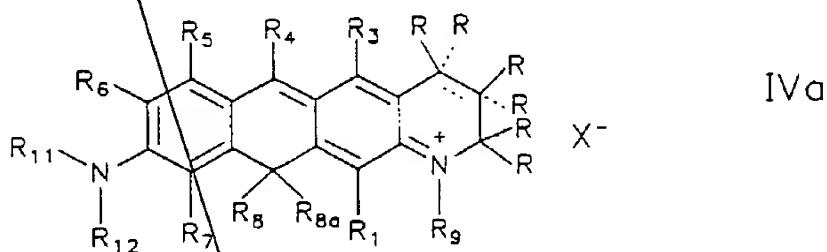
3. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the detection procedure is selected from nucleic acid hybridization procedures and immunochemical procedures.

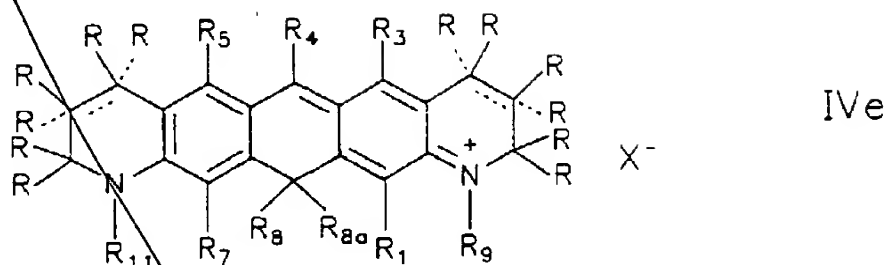
6. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl or a radical containing an aromatic ring system.

7. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>8a</sub> are in each case independently methyl, ethyl or/and phenyl.

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8. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4, which corresponds to one of the general formulae IVa to IVe.





in which

the dashed lines are optionally double bonds, and in the presence of the double bonds the radicals R bonded via a dashed line are absent,

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>8a</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and X are as defined in claim 1, and R, on each occurrence, can be identical or different and is defined as R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>7</sub> in claim 1.

9. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that it has a group capable of covalent coupling.

11. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that it is coupled to a carrier or/and to a biomolecule via coupling groups.

16. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the catalyst is boron trichloride.

17. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the acid is sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid or polyphosphoric acid.

18. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the oxidant is tetrabutylammonium (meta)periodate.

19. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the compound (I) is obtained without isolation of intermediates.

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